

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 16-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 19, and 20 have been allowed and claims 2, 6-13, 16, 17, and 21-24 have been rejected. Applicant has amended claims 2, 5, 12, 18, and 20-23. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks submitted herewith. As will be discussed in detail below, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has amended claims 21 and 22. Support for the limitations can be found in Figure 8 and the supporting description found on page 11 of the specification.

In this embodiment, the second portion of the piston rod of the drive, which is represented by element number 26a in Figure 8, serves as the support element. In addition, a first portion of the piston rod of the drive unit, which is represented by element number 26, serves as the means for guiding. As explained in the specification, "If the clamping device 13 is open and the fixing device 14 engaging on the guide element 41 is locked, the drive D can displace portion 26a of the piston rod 26 relative to the clamping device." In addition, the support element moves independently from the movable mold carrier in that when the clamping device is closed and the fixing device is open, the movable mold carrier is moved and the support element (portion 26a) remains stationary.

Accordingly, because the limitations are supported by the specification, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 18 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(e). Claims 2, 5-13, 16, 17, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims rendering the objections and rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this

case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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